



Dharamsala



Bhandara



Arunachal Pradesh

# NEWSLETTER

Nying-Jey Projects for Tibetan Communities (Australia) Inc

December 2021



## Tashi delek and Seasons Greetings



to all NJP sponsors and friends from Geshe Sonam Thargye and the NJP committee.  
At NJP we are looking forward to a more settled year of operations in 2022

The images above show three of the settings where some of our new students live. Many of the students from these areas attend school near their home, but others must travel far away from home and board in hostels attached to a school in another state.

The transition of sponsorships from Tibet to India has gone more smoothly than anyone could have wished. This is partly because of the cooperation of our two new partners, Jangchub Choeling Nunnery in South India and the Dept of Education of the Central Tibetan Administration in the north. But mostly because so many of our wonderfully generous sponsors have stepped up to support the changeover.

Over 200 sponsors of nuns and/or students in Tibet have agreed to transfer their sponsorship to a monk, nun, or student under the new arrangements. We thank them one and all.

The transfers and reorganisation are almost complete ... almost. NJP is trying valiantly to contact a small number of sponsors who are making payments regularly, but whose contact details have all changed. In short – we cannot contact them, so cannot find out their intentions and seek instructions regarding their sponsorships. Our sponsor liaison personnel are persistent, however, and we hope to have even this last work concluded early in the new year.



STATISTICS	DECEMBER	2021	
	Sponsored	Seeking	Total
Nuns	83		83
Monks	146	20	166
Students	162*	10	172



Geshe Sonam and the NJP committee wish all our sponsors and their families Good Health and Happiness this festive season and Peace and Prosperity in the coming year.

\*Girls-75; Boys 87.

## NJP AGM ~ 2020-2021

The NJP Annual General Meeting was held on October 26, 2021.

The main items on the agenda were reports on the preceding year from the President and the Treasurer plus the election of the office bearers and committee for the coming year.

The presidents report covered the major changes to NJP operations in 2021 and plans for the future. The treasurer reported that NJP is still in a strong position financially to continue fulfilling its mission to help Tibetans in the fields of education, medical help and basic amenities. The president's report is included below for your information.

## NJP Committee 2021-2022



Geshe Sonam Thargye  
President



Dr Darren Fahroedin  
Vice-President



Peter Jost  
Treasurer



Kristin Aitken  
Secretary



Cheryl Hopwood  
Sponsor Liaison



Helen McKenzie  
Minutes, archives

## Presidents Annual Report ~ AGM 2020-21

*The 2020-21 year has been one of great change for Nying-Jey Projects. Our work in the Ganzi area in Tibet which has over the last two years been increasingly more difficult due to Chinese government restrictions, has now ended.*



*In July 2020, NJP sponsor funds were delivered to the Tibet committee as usual, but the committee was restricted from distributing the funds to students and their families at that time. In March 2021, the Ganzi committee had still not been given permission to distribute the student funds, although the nunneries had received their money. Without much warning the authorities demanded that all NJP funds be turned over to them, claiming that NJP had breached government rules. The amount taken was almost half a million yuan. NJP was forbidden from conducting any further business under threat of fines or imprisonment. It was clear that NJP work in China could not continue.*

### **Reorganisation**

*The NJP committee in Australia responded quickly and decisively to the issue. The decision was taken to redirect efforts to supporting Tibetan refugee students and nuns in India.*

*As NJP President, I established connections with the Tibetan Department of Education in Dharamsala North India and the Jangchub Choeling Nunnery in South India, both of whom accepted the offer of ongoing sponsorship support for the Tibetan refugee students and nuns. The existing sponsors of students and nuns in Tibet were immediately informed of the issues by email and newsletter and were asked to indicate their intentions to either transfer and continue to support beneficiaries in India or to finalise their accounts with NJP.*

*[The President's Annual report continues on page 5]*

## MONASTERY NEWS



SERA JEY - Venerable Lobsang Khedup, who studies at Sera Monastery passed on a few words about conditions there now.

The news is that life for the monks is returning to something closer to normal. The monks are attending face to face classes and are able to engage in debating practice. They are also allowed to go outside the monastery to most places if they have had the two vaccinations.

'It's much better now' says Venerable Khedup.



## NEW MONKS on the SEEKING SPONSOR LIST

Perhaps you – or someone you know – would like to offer a sponsorship to one of these monks. Find many more monks seeking sponsorship, young and old, on the NJP website – [www.njp.org.au](http://www.njp.org.au)



M496 Tenzin Norbu



M498 Sonam Jatsho



M501 Dawa Dhondup



M504 Tsering Tashi



M507 Gedun Phuntsok



M508 Palden Tsering

## A LETTER from SERA JE MONASTERY SCHOOL - November 16, 2021

Dear Geshe Sonam, Thargye la, Nying-Jey Projects Committee and members of the Drol Kar Buddhist Centre Tashi Delek,



We are very happy to inform you all that the Covid situation in India has improved. At the beginning of this month, we were able to re-open the school after a long time closed due to the pandemic. Our students have been learning through online classes conducted by their subject teachers during this whole time.

Yesterday was the Happy Occasion of Children's' Day here in India. Children's Day is celebrated on the Nov 14th every year in India. We celebrated Children's Day at the school hall. All the students were very cheerful and happy.

The school administration distributed sweets to all the students and teachers. Our teachers arranged for a wonderful program where they sang and entertained the students. The students played games and after the program, all the students and teachers enjoyed a special meal including ice cream. All the students enjoyed the day. We have sent some of the pictures of the students during Children's Day Celebration at school today.



Kindly convey our greetings and good wishes to all the sponsors and members of the Centre,

Thank you, with best regards,

Geshe Tenjing Foyegal, Geshe Ngawang Sangye and Geshe Jampa Dawa – Directors



## STUDENT NEWS



### WHAT IS BASIC EDUCATION POLICY?

The Department of Education of the Central Tibetan Administration in India developed a strategy for Tibetan students in exile called **Basic Education Policy**. To foster a firm foundation of Tibetan language and culture in the students all subjects at their schools are taught in Tibetan right from Pre-primary to class III.

Teaching of English as a second language and Hindi as third language starts in class IV and class VI, respectively.



## SAMBHOTA TIBETAN SCHOOLS SOCIETY ~ SCHOOL PROFILES

Several students sponsored through NJP attend the following four schools. *[data/photos sourced from STSS website]*

### STS GANGKYI PETEON

STS Gangkyi Petoen School in Dharamsala North India has around 320 students in classes from stage 1 preschool to class 3. It was established in 1975 by Ama Jetsun Pema, sister of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. It started as a preschool catering for the children of Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) staff in Dharamsala.

It was the first Tibetan school to implement the exile government's Basic Education Policy (BEP).



### STS MIAO



STS Miao is in Arunachal Pradesh, India, near the border of Assam. The school has 297 students enrolled in classes from preschool to class 8. It was first established in 1963 at the Chopelling Tibetan Settlement to cater for the educational needs of the settlement.



The children are taught Tibetan and English, along with mathematics, science, social studies and other co-scholastic activities. The medium of instruction is Tibetan at primary level, and then changes to English from class 6 onwards.

### STS PETEON DHARAMSALA

STS Peteon in Dharamsala presently has around 140 students, 48 of whom reside in Peteon hostel as boarders. The school caters for students from year 4 to 8, but the school is currently expanding to include year (&10 levels).

The school was established in 2005 as a model school for the implementation of Basic Education Policy. The school endeavours to follow and practise the policy not only for teaching-learning purposes but also to give a holistic education to the children.

Students are encouraged to participate actively in proceedings to ensure a child-centric teaching/learning environment. The students are encouraged to express their views in order to help fully develop their inherent qualities. Teaching of Tibetan culture and tradition helps them to have a good grasp of their own culture and identity, which will enable them to also appreciate the culture of other people.



## STS GOTHANGAON

STS Gothangaon provides educational facilities for the children of underprivileged Tibetan refugee settlers of Gothangaon. The school is located in the Bhandara District of Maharashtra State Central India, one of the most remote and hottest climatic regions of India.



The school provides education from pre-primary to year 6 with instruction in the Tibetan language from class 1 to 5. Along with basic subjects and the teaching of tradition and values, immense importance is placed on extracurricular activities for the children to grow into successful and virtuous human beings. In



empowering students to take on active roles in their own progress, the school uniquely engages students while promoting a culture reinforcing the joy of lifelong learning.



### AGM 2021 - President's Annual Report cont'd



*Once the DoE and the nunnery began sending photos and bios of suitable candidates for sponsorship, the systems for transfer were set up and the processes went into operation. It has involved several months of very hard work, but the transition has gone quite smoothly and should be completed by the end of 2021.*

*To date, almost 200 sponsors of nuns and students in Tibet have transferred their sponsorships to individuals in India. We now support 156 students in classes from kindergarten to year 10 attending 15 schools operated by the Department of Education. At Jangchub Choeling nunnery, 80 nuns are sponsored by NJP sponsors.*

*Sincere thanks to Tibetan Dept of Education in India, and the administrators at Jangchub Choeling nunnery for their cooperation and the opportunity to work with them. Special thanks to all the sponsors who have remained with NJP so the organisation can continue its important work of assisting Tibetans in need in India.*

#### Tibet

*The abrupt closure of our work in Tibet was regrettable. However, it is worth noting that when NJP began in Tibet, conditions there were very poor and very few children attended school. Conditions there are now much better. Refugees in India probably need more support than people in Tibet.*

*NJP will find it easier to operate in India as communication with organisers can be conducted in English. Our new India contacts are more educated and skilful. Their procedures and record keeping are similar to western countries, so it is much easier to get information about the nuns and students to share with sponsors.*

#### Monastery vaccinations

*NJP currently has 147 monks and students sponsored through Sera and Drepung monasteries in South India. In May this year, we became aware that there were about 60 Covid cases in Sera monastery and the monks had been in lockdown for several months. Monks 45 and over had received free vaccines, but those aged 18-44 were unable to get vaccinated due to cost.*

*Again, as NJP president, I reached out to my contacts and sought funding to purchase vaccine for the monks. Many people responded with great generosity. These were mainly Chinese and Vietnamese people in Australia and some abroad. Enough money was raised to provide double vaccinations for over 10,000 monks*

*in the 18-44 age group in 10 different monasteries in South India. Funds were delivered through NJP in June and July 2021. Receipts and grateful thanks were sent by all the monasteries.*

#### NJP committee

*The NJP committee members are to be highly commended for their work with NJP this year. It has been a very difficult time managing these major changes. Many hours have gone into contacting sponsors, processing new students and nuns, and organising sponsor transfers and cancellations. It has been hard work, but our dedicated committee has done an amazing job. Hopefully in the coming year the processes will all settle into place and follow a familiar pattern.*

*Future plans include the institution of a high achievers' tertiary scholarship for Tibetan students in India who struggle to afford university fees. This is my report for the 2020-21 year.  
Geshe Sonam Thargye – President NJP*

